



North Brunswick 24/7

OFFICIAL E-NEWSLETTER OF THE TOWNSHIP OF NORTH BRUNSWICK

TOWNSHIP BUDGET ADOPTED

The Township Council adopted the 2016 municipal budget at its meeting on Tuesday, September 8.

Mayor Francis ‘Mac’ Womack said the \$45.6 million budget reflects the Township’s commitment in providing quality services to taxpayers, improving operating efficiency and preserving municipal infrastructure of parks and open space, roads, water, sewer, and stormwater systems.

“This budget is a testament to the Township’s sound fiscal practices,” he said. “North Brunswick is in good financial

shape as our spending in the FY2016 budget reflects a net 1% increase and our ratable base has increased through recent commercial development along the Routes 1, 130 and 27 corridors.”

Womack said the opening of Costco, Target, Investors Bank, and Raymour & Flanigan over the past year demonstrates the Township’s ability to attract ratables which will help in providing tax relief for residents.

He added that the ratable base for the Township increased for the second consecutive year (2015 with a \$4,900,205 million increase compared to 2014) (2014 with a \$40,317,011 increase compared 2013) for a 2015 total assessed value of

\$2,457,050,620 which will help stabilize municipal, county and school tax rates.

“Through promoting economic development while preserving ‘Smart Growth’, we have set up a solid foundation for our residents to see real relief in their tax bills in the coming years,” he said.

Standard and Poor’s maintained North Brunswick’s debt rating with a AA+ with a positive outlook for the second year, highlighting good financial practices by the Township and the Township continued to have a clean audit with no recommendations.

PAY YOUR PROPERTY TAXES ONLINE

Beginning September 2015, the Township has added the ability to view and pay property taxes online through the municipal website. In addition to currently paying property taxes by mail and in person, payments can now be made electronically through the Link2Gov/ WIPP payment system. WIPP link: <https://wippii.edmundsassoc.com/Wipp1214/>

There are fees associated with paying a property tax bill online. If you pay by ACH or e-check, there is a \$1.05 convenience fee. If paying by a Visa personal debit card, there is a \$3.95 convenience fee. The fee for all other debit and credit card payments will be approximately 2.95% of the total amount to be processed. The convenience fees are collected by the processing agency directly.

Credit/Debit card payments are unable to be processed in person.

MAYOR'S MESSAGE



Mayor

Francis 'Mac' Womack

The end of summer is here and the sounds and scenes of Fall in North Brunswick are upon us. Our children have started the new school year and our Youth Sports programs are in full swing. Before we know it, the leaves will be changing and the temperature will be dropping.

North Brunswick kicked off the Fall season on Saturday, September 19 with the Township's 33rd Annual Heritage Day Festival.

The weather was perfect, the music was great, and the fireworks show was spectacular! It was wonderful to see so many come out to celebrate North Brunswick's rich history and cultural heritage.

A special thank you to the Heritage Day Committee, chaired by Andrew Zastko, Department of Parks, Recreation and Community Services Director Lou Ann Benson, the DPRCS staff, Departments of Public Works and Public Safety for their efforts in making Heritage Day a huge success.

Yes, Fall is a busy time of year with so much to do. A town favorite is the NBHA's annual Dog Walk-a-Thon on

October 11th. On October 23rd, bring the family over to Community Park for our Community Camp Out & Movie Night, along with everyone's favorite, Halloween Happenings. It will be a frightfully good time for all ages.

Details on these events and more can be found in the DPRCS Fall/Winter brochure which can be viewed on the township website: www.northbrunswicknj.gov.

However you decide to enjoy your time this Fall, be it in your back yard raking leaves or out at one of North Brunswick's beautiful parks, be safe and be happy.

Just think, Spring will be here before you know it!

LANDLORD REGISTRATION RENEWALS

Renewal notices have been mailed to all landlords who registered rental properties within the Township in 2012 as part of a three-year registration that expires October 1, 2015. Landlord registration renewals require a \$30.00 fee and will be accepted without penalty through October 31, 2015.

Only landlords who registered in 2012 are affected, though landlords can refer to their registration certificate for an expiration date to assure they are properly enrolled. Property owners who are no longer landlords or have already recently renewed their registration do not need to respond or contact the Township.

All landlords are reminded that an inspection is necessary prior to every change in tenancy. A Certificate of Rental Housing compliance must be secured and posted in the rental unit at all times stating that the unit complies with the property maintenance standards and is approved for occupancy.

For further information, please call the Department of Community Development at (732) 247-0922, ext. 440.



North Brunswick Township and the North Brunswick Police Department have Youtube pages! Check out the programs and events by clicking their YouTube icons on the Township website.

COUNCIL CORNER



Councilman Bob Davis

In January, I began my fifth term on the Township Council. It is truly an honor being a member of the Governing Body, serving the residents of North Brunswick.

Through foresight and wanting to leave our Township in a better Financial and Social way in the future, I was one of the Councilmen who initiated the plan for North Brunswick to build a Transit Village on the old Johnson and Johnson site. This Transit Village will be a plus for future generations.

At full build out it is projected to generate as much as \$290 million dollars in ratables to the Township. It will also be a place to shop, eat, live and just meet up with family and friends along with having transportation by bus and train.

As a former member of the United States Army Reserves, 11th Special Forces Group (Airborne), there is a special place in my heart for our veterans. They have bravely served our country and fought for our freedoms. It is only right that we honor them.

Over the past year, the North Brunswick Township Wartime Veteran Street Sign Program has really taken off. In 2014, five ceremonies were held to dedicate a street to a Township veteran. There have been seven as of September with one or two more scheduled for 2015.

Reading through the proclamations at these ceremonies, these veterans have displayed the courage, determination and valor that symbolize our armed forces. If you would like to nominate a North Brunswick veteran, please visit the Township website for a nomination form.

I also strive to be engaged with our senior citizens. We have a vibrant senior community and the Township does a fantastic job with the Senior Center on Linwood Place. The center offers trips, events and beneficial programs throughout the year.

My Council colleagues and I actively support the Township programs that benefit our youth.

Whether it is swimming, tennis, chess, robotics, etc. the Department of Parks, Recreation and Community Services has something for every child and their interests. The Fall/Winter brochure is available at the DPRCS office and the Township website.

As Council members, we are here to represent you. Feel free to contact us on any issue or matter you have. Our contact information is available on the website.

Have a great autumn season!

FALL FIRE HYDRANT FLUSHING PROGRAM

The Township of North Brunswick's Fall Fire Hydrant Flushing Program began on September 20th and will continue through October.

General flushing will occur Sunday through Thursday, 9 p.m. – 5 a.m. However, it may be necessary to perform some during normal business hours.

This may lower water pressure temporarily. If the water appears discolored after flushing has occurred, please run cold water until the discoloration clears. If you have any questions, please contact American Water at 1-877-783-5560.

For more information on the water flushing program, please visit www.northbrunswicknj.gov.

EMPLOYEE SPOTLIGHT

As a teenager, Giovanna Branciforte was a camp counselor and part-time helper at the Department of Human Services, known now as Department of Parks, Recreation and Community Services.

It was something that she enjoyed, assisting with the various park activities and programs. The interaction with children, parents and staff members also appealed to her.

Branciforte, a Recreation Program Specialist, knew that this was the place for her and has worked for the Township for 22 years.

“It is the right niche for me,” she said. “I am lucky enough to run the programs that I grew up helping out.”

Late summer is especially busy for Branciforte as she juggles various activities such as getting ready for September’s Heritage Day, wrapping up summer camp and the beginning of Project LEAL.

The preparation for Heritage Day is year-round for Branciforte, liaison to the Committee, and her fellow members. The committee meets once a month, planning out activities and bands for the coming year’s event.

The bands, which change from year to year, are picked by October. This year, the event



**DPRCS Recreation Program
Specialist Giovanna Branciforte**

featured country, Irish, Salsa, R&B and rock ‘n’ roll bands.

Branciforte praised the late Bruce and Ann Marie Chandlee, former Mayor Paul Matacera and other families in the community for laying the groundwork for the successful annual event.

“They saw the need to celebrate North Brunswick and what North Brunswick is all about,” she said. “I am just adding to what they did.”

The Department’s Summer Camp consists of 200 children and 60 staff members, which includes high school and college students and teachers.

“It is fun,” said Branciforte. “(The parents) are very complimentary about the staff and what a great job they do for the kids.”

She added, “It is my favorite part of the job....I can be a big kid.”

Project LEAL is a before and after school recreational childcare program providing a safe, supervised extension of the school day. Branciforte said the program was

developed in the 1980s by Tom Seilheimer, former Director of the Department of Human Services and the late Dr. Peter Bowman, former Principal of Livingston Park School, in response to the changing trends of two parent employment and single parent families.

“They knew that parents needed a safe place for their children to go to instead of at home (alone),” she said.

One aspect of Branciforte’s job that can be unpredictable is the operation of a Township shelter. As Shelter Director, she said the same amount of planning has to be done whether one person shows up or 50.

She was able to prepare for situations such as Hurricane Sandy and the forecasted blizzard in January. However, July’s warehouse fire did not afford her that chance.

“We just grabbed our staff and went to Linwood School,” she said.

Branciforte praised the assistance of the American Red Cross and the North Brunswick CERT team, along with the help from other towns, including the Woodbridge CERT team and South River First Aid Squad.

“It was a tremendous effort,” she said. “It just ran smoothly.”

FROM THE TOWNSHIP CLERK

The General Election is November 3, 2015. Polls will be open from 6 a.m. to 8 p.m.

You may stop in at the Municipal Clerk's Office between the hours of 8:30 AM and 4:00 PM, Monday – Friday, if you would like to register to vote.

Registration deadline to vote is October 13, 2015.

A voter may apply for an absentee ballot by completing a "Mail In Ballot application" and mailing it to the County Clerk by mail up to 7 days prior to the election (Tuesday, October 27, 2015). A voter may also apply in person to the County Clerk (75 Bayard Street, New Brunswick) until 3:00 PM the day before the election. (FAXED COPIES ARE NOT ACCEPTED)

Mail In Ballot Applications are also available in the Municipal Clerk's Office, 710 Hermann Road, 1st Floor, North Brunswick.

Your polling place will be designated on your Sample Ballot, which if you are registered to vote in this election, should be received by you IN THE MAIL approximately 5 days before the election.

You may register to vote at the Municipal Clerk's Office, Monday through Friday, 8:30 AM – 4:00 PM. For more information or for any questions, contact (732) 247-0922, ext 470.

BENEFIT SOFTBALL GAME

**NBTHS STAFF/DISTRICT STAFF
VS.
NORTH BRUNSWICK POLICE DEPARTMENT**

**TUESDAY, OCTOBER 6
NORTH BRUNSWICK COMMUNITY PARK
PRE GAME CEREMONY: 5:45 PM**

GAME: 6 PM

**BENEFIT GAME TO SUPPORT THE NORTH
BRUNSWICK TOWNSHIP EMERGENCY RESPONDERS
DONATION: \$5**

DPRCS NEWS

UPCOMING EVENTS & PROGRAMS

COMMUNITY CAMPOUT AND MOVIE (RIO 2) and HALLOWEEN HAPPENINGS

**Friday, October 23 6:00 p.m.—8:00 a.m.
Community Park**

\$5/person (adults are free with a donation to the Food Bank)

**Join us for a spooky hayride or haunted walk, bonfire,
S'mores, food, crafts and more!**

The DPRCS professional staff members are excited to share the new addition of adapted programs designed for our special needs population. These programs include Anyone Can Craft Club, Social/Sport/Club and Adaptive Aquatics for children, ages 5-10 and 11-17.

Detailed information may be found in the DPRCS Fall/Winter brochure on the Township website.

SENIOR CENTER EVENTS

**HALLOWEEN PARTY -- Friday, October 30, 12 p.m.
Dress up and join us for a fun luncheon at the Senior Center!
Prizes for best costume! \$3/person**

**WINTER HOLIDAY DANCE -- Friday, December 11, 4:30 p.m.-7 p.m.
Dinner, dancing and live entertainment!
\$5/person**

DPW NEWS

FALL LEAF BAGS AND COLLECTION

That cool, crisp nip in the air means its leaf season again. All the beautiful autumnal colors will eventually end up on the lawn!

Leaf bags will be available at DPW starting on October 5 Monday through Friday from 8:30 am – 4:00 pm and Saturdays from October 10 through December 12 from 8:00 am – Noon. 2 bundles of bags will be distributed for each residential address (**no exceptions**). Please bring proof of residency to receive your bags (driver's license, tax bill, etc.). The leaf collection schedule can be found on the North Brunswick Township website.

Leaves are collected the **entire week noted in the schedule in your neighborhood. There is not one specific day that leaves in biodegradable bags are collected on your street.** It's best to plan to have your bags at the curb on MONDAY of your collection week.

DO NOT put brush, sticks, grass clippings or ANY OTHER MATERIAL in the leaf bags – bags with materials other than leaves WILL NOT be collected.

COMPUTER AND TV DROP OFF DAY

TV's and computers are considered hazardous waste and cannot be integrated into the regular trash stream. North Brunswick residents may bring computers, monitors and TV's to the Department of Public Works at 45 Quarry Lane on **Saturday, November 14 from 8:00am – Noon.** Our vendor is bonded and is an authorized business to deconstruct these items in an environmentally sensitive fashion. Please, no cables, keyboards, mice, printers, etc. These items can be put in the trash.

Be sure to get to us before noon – the truck leaves immediately after the event!

FALL TRASH COLLECTION CHANGES

All municipal offices will be closed will be closed on **Monday, October 12 in observance of the Columbus Day Holiday, Tuesday, November 3 for Election Day and Wednesday, November 11, 2015 in observance of Veterans Day.**

For the Columbus Day Holiday, Monday collection for condos/townhomes with twice a week trash collection will be suspended and resume on Thursday, October 15. Appointments for bulk pickup for Trash Collection Zone 3 will be scheduled for Tuesday, October 13, 2015.

The changes in the trash collection schedule for Election Day include: Automated trash collection in **Zone 1** will be collected on Wednesday, November 4. Collection is cancelled for condo/townhomes with twice a week trash collection and will resume on Friday, November 6.

The changes in the trash collection schedule for Veterans Day include: **Zone 1 Bulk Collection** will be scheduled for Thursday, November 12. White Goods/Metal collection for all zones will be scheduled for Thursday, November 12. ***Recycling collection is not affected in any zone during this week.***



ELECTED OFFICIALS	
Mayor Francis 'Mac' Womack	mayorwomack@northbrunswicknj.gov
Council President Ralph Andrews	randrews@northbrunswicknj.gov
Councilman Carlo Socio	csocio@northbrunswicknj.gov
Councilwoman Cathy Nicola	cnicola@northbrunswicknj.gov
Councilman Bob Corbin	bcorbin@northbrunswicknj.gov
Councilman Bob Davis	bdavis@northbrunswicknj.gov
Councilwoman Shanti Narra	snarra@northbrunswicknj.gov

Township of North Brunswick
710 Hermann Road
North Brunswick, NJ 08902
(732) 247-0922
www.northbrunswicknj.gov
Hours: Monday—Friday: 8:30 a.m. to 4 p.m.

Township Council public meetings are typically held on the first and third Monday of the month. If a meeting falls on a holiday, it is held on Tuesday.

Township Council Workshop meetings are typically held on the second and fourth Mondays of the month, except in case of a holiday, in which case the meeting would be held on Tuesday instead.

TOWNSHIP DIRECTORY

Mayor's OfficeExt. 430
Business AdministrationExt. 435
Clerk's OfficeExt. 470
Community DevelopmentExt. 440
Community ServicesExt. 475
Parks and RecreationExt. 475
Police AdministrationExt. 400
Public Safety (Non-Emergency)Ext. 300
Municipal CourtExt. 425
FireExt. 697
First Aid/Rescue (732) 545-1024
Public Works..... (732) 297-1134
Recycling.....(732) 297-1134
Water General Questions(877) 783-5560
Water Emergency(732) 297-3739

North Brunswick Senior Center
15 Linwood Place
(732) 247-0922, ext. 820
Hours: Monday—Friday: 8:30 a.m. to 4 p.m.

North Brunswick Library
880 Hermann Road
(732) 246-3545
www.northbrunswicklibrary.org
Hours: Monday—Thursday: 10 a.m. to 9 p.m.
Friday—Saturday: 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.
Sunday: 12 p.m. to 5 p.m.

**SIGN UP TODAY AT WWW.NORTHBRUNSWICKNJ.GOV TO
CONNECT WITH US AND RECEIVE EMERGENCY ALERTS**

